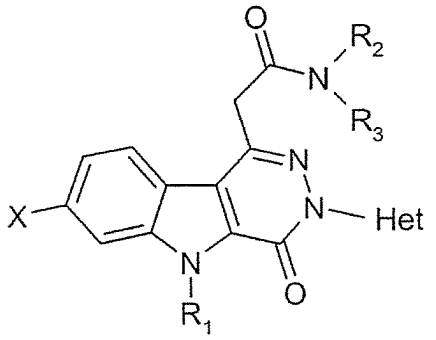
Amendment Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims set forth below with amendments as indicated will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. **(currently amended)** A compound of the ~~general~~ formula (I)



(I)

in which

X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom,

R_1 represents a hydrogen atom or a $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl group,

R_2 and R_3 each independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom or a $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl group, or else R_2 and R_3, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl or 4-$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkylpiperazinyl group, and

Het represents a heteroaromatic group of pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyridazinyl type which may carry one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl and/or $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkoxy groups,

in the form of the base or an addition salt with acids, or in the hydrate or solvate form.

2. **(previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein X represents a halogen atom.

3. **(previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein R_1 represents a

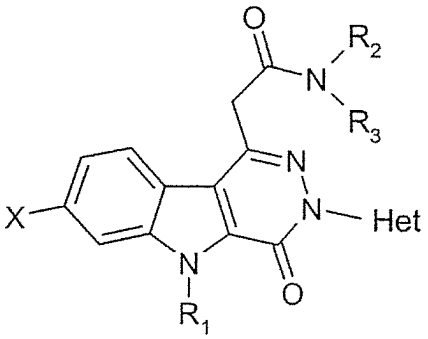
$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl.

4. **(previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein R_2 and R_3, each independently of one another, represent a $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl group or else R_2 and R_3, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a pyrrolidinyl or 4-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkylpiperazinyl group.

5. **(previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein Het represents a heteroaromatic group of pyridinyl type which may carry one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl and/or $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy groups.

6. **(previously presented)** The compound according to claim 1 wherein X represents a chlorine atom and R_1 represents a methyl group.

7. **(currently amended)** A process for preparing a compound of ~~general~~ formula (I),



(I)

in which

X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom,

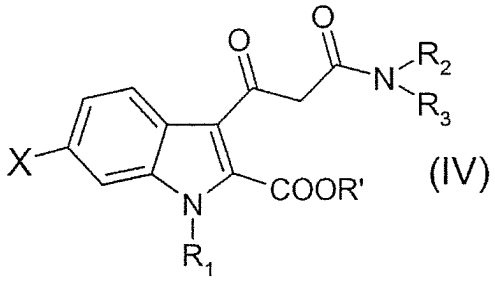
R_1 represents a hydrogen atom or a $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl group,

R_2 and R_3 each independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom or a $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl group, or else R_2 and R_3, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl or 4-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkylpiperazinyl group, and

Het represents a heteroaromatic group of pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyrimidinyl,

pyrazinyl or pyridazinyl type which may carry one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more (C_1-C_4)alkyl and/or (C_1-C_4)alkoxy groups,

wherein the compound of ~~general~~ formula (IV),



(IV)

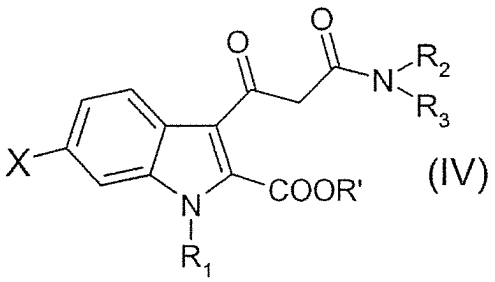
in which

X, R_1, R_2 and R_3 are as defined above,

R' represents a (C_1-C_4)alkyl group,

is reacted, in a polar solvent in the presence of an acid, with a heteroarylhydrazine.

8. **(currently amended)** The process according to claim 7 wherein the compound of ~~general~~ formula (IV),

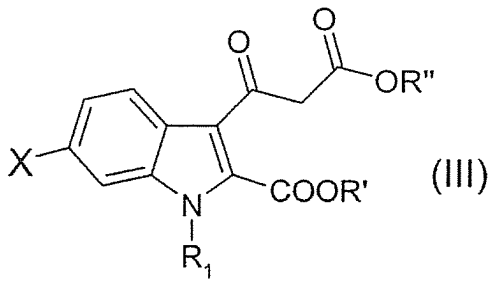


(IV)

in which

X, R_1, R_2, R_3 and R' are as defined ~~above~~ in claim 7,

is prepared by reacting a compound of ~~general~~ formula (III),



(III)

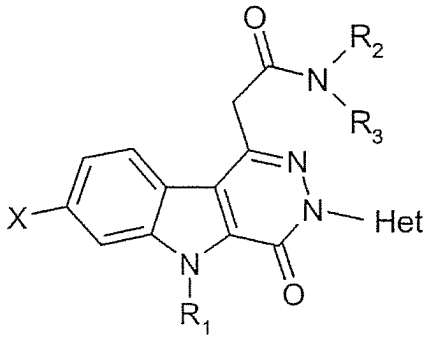
in which

X, R_1 and R' are as defined above,

R" represents a (C_1-C_4)alkyl group,

with an amine of ~~general~~ formula HNR_2R_3, in which R_2 and R_3 are as defined ~~above~~ in claim 7, in the presence of a catalyst, ~~such as~~ 4-(dimethylamino)pyridine.

9. **(currently amended)** A process for preparing a compound of ~~general~~ formula (I),



(I)

in which

X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom,

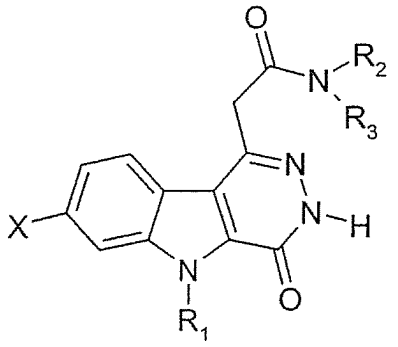
R_1 represents a hydrogen atom or a (C_1-C_4)alkyl group,

R_2 and R_3 each independently of one another represent a hydrogen atom or a (C_1-C_4)alkyl group, or else R_2 and R_3, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl or 4-(C_1-C_4)alkylpiperazinyl group, and

Het represents a heteroaromatic group of pyridinyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl or pyridazinyl type which may carry one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more (C_1-C_4)alkyl and/or (C_1-C_4)alkoxy groups,

comprising the step consisting in

carrying out an N-heteroarylation reaction on a compound of ~~general~~ formula (V),



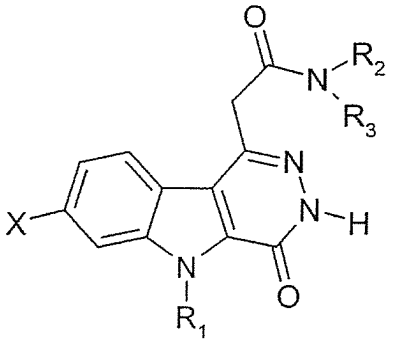
(V)

in which

X, R_1, R_2 and R_3 are as defined above,

in the presence of a heteroaryl halide, or else of a heteroarylboronic acid derivative and of a metal salt such as a copper salt.

10. **(currently amended)** The process according to claim 9 wherein compound of ~~general~~ formula (V),

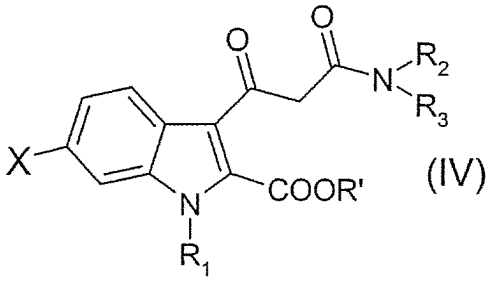


(V)

in which

X, R_1, R_2 and R_3 are as defined ~~above~~ in claim 9,

is prepared by reacting a compound of ~~general~~ formula (IV),



(IV)

in which

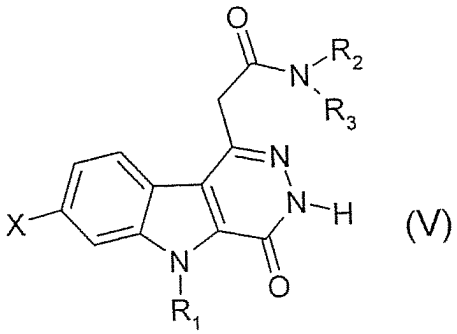
X, R_1, R_2, R_3 are as defined ~~above~~ <u>in claim 9</u>,

R' represents a (C_1-C_4)alkyl group,

with hydrazine by heating in a solvent such as toluene in the presence of a catalytic amount of acid.

11. - 12. **(canceled)**

13. **(currently amended)** A compound of the ~~general~~ formula (V)



(V)

in which

X represents a hydrogen or halogen atom,

R_1 represents a hydrogen atom or a (C_1-C_4)alkyl group,

R_2 and R_3, each independently of one another, represent a hydrogen atom or a (C_1-C_4)alkyl group, or else R_2 and R_3, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl or 4-(C_1-C_4)alkylpiperazinyl group.

14. **(cancelled)**

15. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

16. **(original)** The compound according to claim 2 wherein R_1 represents a $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl.

17. **(original)** The compound according to claim 2 wherein R_2 and R_3, each independently of one another, represent a $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl group or else R_2 and R_3, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a pyrrolidinyl or 4-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkylpiperazinyl group.

18. **(original)** The compound according to claim 3 wherein R_2 and R_3, each independently of one another, represent a $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl group or else R_2 and R_3, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a pyrrolidinyl or 4-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkylpiperazinyl group.

19. **(original)** The compound according to claim 2 wherein Het represents a heteroaromatic group of pyridinyl type which may carry one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl and/or $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy groups.

20. **(original)** The compound according to claim 3 wherein Het represents a heteroaromatic group of pyridinyl type which may carry one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl and/or $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy groups.

21. **(original)** The compound according to claim 4 wherein Het represents a heteroaromatic group of pyridinyl type which may carry one or more halogen atoms

and/or one or more (C_1-C_4)alkyl and/or (C_1-C_4)alkoxy groups.

22. **(original)** The compound according to claim 2 wherein X represents a chlorine atom and R_1 represents a methyl group.

23. **(original)** The compound according to claim 3 wherein X represents a chlorine atom and R_1 represents a methyl group.

24. **(original)** The compound according to claim 4 wherein X represents a chlorine atom and R_1 represents a methyl group.

25. **(original)** The compound according to claim 5 wherein X represents a chlorine atom and R_1 represents a methyl group.

26. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

27. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 3 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

28. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 4 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

29. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

30. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 6 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

31. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 16 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

32. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 17 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

33. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 18 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

34. (**currently amended**) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 19 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

35. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 20 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

36. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 21 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

37. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 22 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

38. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 23 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

39. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 24 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

40. **(currently amended)** A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound of formula (I) according to claim 25 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, a

hydrate or a solvate of this compound, ~~optionally~~ combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

41. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

42. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 2.

43. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 3.

44. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy;

amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 4.

45. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 5.

46. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 6.

47. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 16.

48. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 17.

49. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 18.

50. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 19.

51. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which~~

~~peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 20.

52. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 21.

53. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 22.

54. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 23.

55. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 24.

56. **(currently amended)** A method for treating a disease in a patient, said disease selected from the group consisting of peripheral neuropathy; spinal amyotrophy; amyotrophic lateral sclerosis; cranial and medullar trauma; multiple sclerosis; Alzheimer's disease; Parkinson's disease; and diabetic nephropathy ~~pathologies in which peripheral benzodiazepine receptors are involved~~ which comprises administering to ~~a~~ said patient ~~in need of such treatment~~ an effective amount of a compound according to claim 25.